

OPEN SPACE COUNCIL  
September 13, 2017  
9:00 a.m.  
Legislative Hall  
Senate Hearing Room, Second Floor  
Dover, Delaware

**ATTENDANCE**

Council Members:

John R. Schroeder, Chairperson  
Paul Boswell, Esq  
Lorraine M. Fleming  
David Humes

Ex-Officio:

Raymond E. Bivens, State Liaison Officer, LWCF, DNREC

Staff:

Elena Stewart, Parks & Recreation, DNREC  
Craig Rhoads, Fish & Wildlife, DNREC  
Michael Valenti, State Forestry Administrator, DDA  
Patrick Emory, Director, Community Services

**I. Call to Order/Introductions/Announcements**

John Schroeder, Chairperson, called the September 13, 2017 Open Space Council (OSC) meeting to order. He welcomed Council members and staff. He noted that there was no quorum; therefore, the OSC could not officially vote on the projects.

**II. Minutes of June 7, 2017 Meeting**

There was not a quorum so the minutes could not be approved.

**III. Financial Report**

Elena Stewart presented the financial report:

<b>Open Space Program Fund Summary</b>		
<b>9/13/17</b>		
<b>Current Funds</b>		
Realty Transfer Tax	9/2/2017	<b>\$4,255,634.93</b>
<b>Previously Approved Projects</b>	<b>Date Encumbered</b>	
Cooch - HCA	12/14/2013	\$1,500,000.00
Great Marsh - Parks	9/14/2016	\$2,000,000.00
Manwaring	12/7/2016	\$100,000.00
Sinclair	12/7/2016	\$1,000.00
Felician Sisters	12/7/2016	\$250,000.00
Rudin	6/7/2017	\$15,000.00
<b>Total Obligated</b>		<b>\$3,866,000.00</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$389,634.93</b>
<b>Reimbursements</b>		
Wilson Heirs		\$140,000.00
<b>Total Reimbursements Anticipated</b>		<b>\$140,000.00</b>
<b>Balance Available Through 12/15/18</b>	<b>\$529,634.93</b>	

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. Completed projects**

1. Rudin donation - ~4 acres of land acquired as part of Brandywine Creek State Park
2. ABC Woodlands - ~570 acres of land acquired as part of the Midlands Wildlife Area

##### **B. Agency Presentation**

1. Elena reported that the revised Regulations were entered into the Register and no additional comments were received. We are waiting on the Hearing Officer's report to finalize the new regulations and corresponding evaluation system. The Protected Lands layer is complete for all Open Space properties and Parks is working on connecting it to the database. When it is finalized, the information will be made public and put online.

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. Council Open Discussion**

Lorraine noted the opportunity to connect the Open Space Program to the SCORP process. Ray stated that we would make sure to integrate more questions about the public's desire for open space protection as part of the new survey.

John noted that all council members, with the exception of Dorothy, were serving on expired terms. There is also a vacancy on the council left by Porter and the hope is that the Governor would appoint a member that would satisfy the diversity requirement.

There was additional discussion about the opportunity to change the program to also award grants to municipalities for their purchase of land for open space. Ray pointed out that would require legislative changes and John wants to discuss it at a later time.

Ray reported that the Bancroft Mills project was moving along. They are starting on public enhancements and demolition is 90% finished.

**VI. Executive Session**

A. Discussion of Site Acquisitions

**VII. Open Session**

A. Council Project Recommendations

There was not a quorum so the projects could not be voted on.

**Next Meeting Date/Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Open Space Council is scheduled for December 6, 2017 in Legislative Hall, Second Floor, Senate Hearing Room, Dover, DE 19901, starting at 9:00 a.m.

John thanked everyone and asked for a motion to adjourn.